IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A chiral compound of the general formula I

(I)

and diastereomers thereof, where

R^1 and R^2, independently of one another, are

$P\text{-}Y^1\text{-}A^1\text{-}Y^2\text{-}M\text{-}Y^3\text{-}(A^2)_m\text{-}Y^4\text{-}$ groups,

~~where~~ <u>wherein</u>

A^1 and A^2 are spacers having ~~from~~ one to 30 carbon atoms,

M   is a mesogenic group,

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 are<u>, independently of one another,</u> a single chemical bond, -O-, -S-,

    –CO–, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-, -O-CO-O-, –O–CO-N(R)-,

    -(R)N-CO-O- or -(R)N-CO-N(R)-,

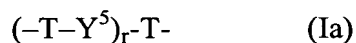R   is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl,

P   is hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, a group which is polymerizable or suitable for

     polymerization, or a radical which carries a group which is polymerizable or

     suitable for polymerization, and

m   is a value of 0 or 1, <u>and</u>

~~where~~ <u>wherein</u> the variables A^1, A^2, Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, Y^4, M, P and the index m<u>,</u> in the

groups R^1 and R^2<u>,</u> may be identical or different, with the proviso that, in the case

where the index m is 0, at least one of the variables Y^3 and Y^4 adjacent to A^2 is a chemical bond.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The ~~A~~ compound as claimed in claim 1, ~~where~~ wherein the mesogenic group M conforms to the formula Ia

$$(-T-Y^5)_r-T- \qquad (Ia)$$

~~where~~ wherein

T   is a divalent saturated or unsaturated carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical,
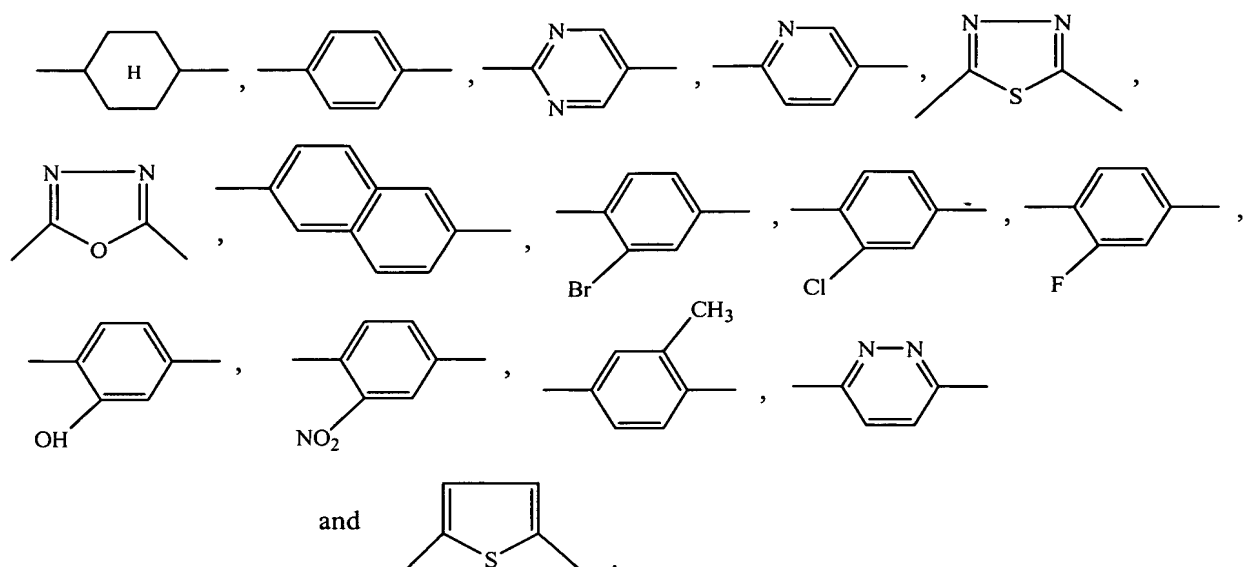
Y^5 is a single chemical bond, -O-, -S-, –CO–, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CO-N(R)-,

-(R)N-CO-, -O-CO-O-, –O–CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-O– or -(R)N-CO-N(R)-,

R   is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and

r   is a value of 0, 1, 2 or 3, where, for r > 0, both the variables T and the

variables Y^5 may, in each case, be identical to, or different from, one another.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The ~~A~~ compound as claimed in claim 2, ~~where~~ wherein the index r in the mesogenic group of the formula Ia, in the group ~~groups~~ R^1 and the index r in the mesogenic group of the formula Ia in group R^2 ~~adopts~~, are, independently of one another, ~~the value~~ 0 or 1.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ~~A~~ compound as claimed in claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein ~~where~~ T is selected from the group consisting of:

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~one or more of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein ~~where~~, in the groups R^1 and R^2, m is, in each case, 0[[,]]; Y^3 is a single chemical bond[[,]]; and Y^4 corresponds to -O-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-O- or -(R)N-CO-O– [[,]]; and wherein ~~where~~ the variable ~~variables~~ Y^4 for group R^1 may be identical to, or different from, the variable Y^4 for group R^2 ~~one another~~.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method of altering the optical properties of a liquid crystalline system, comprising contacting the ~~The use of a~~ compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~one or more of claims 1 to 5~~, as chiral dopant, ~~for~~ with one or more liquid-crystalline systems.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A liquid-crystalline composition, comprising at least one chiral compound of the general formula I, as claimed in claim 1, ~~one or more of claims 1 to 5~~ and one or more liquid crystalline materials.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A polymerizable liquid-crystalline composition, comprising at least one chiral compound of the general formula I, as claimed in <u>claim 1</u>, ~~one or more of claims 1 to 5~~ and one or more polymerizable liquid crystalline materials.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): <u>A method for preparing an optical component, comprising forming said optical component from the composition of claim 7</u> ~~The use of a composition as claimed in claim 7 or 8 for the production of optical components~~.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An optical component ~~which has been~~ produced <u>from the</u> ~~using a~~ composition as claimed in claim 7 ~~or 8~~.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): <u>A method of printing or coating a substrate, comprising applying the composition of claim 8 to a substrate</u> ~~The use of a composition as claimed in claim 8 for printing or coating substrates~~.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A printed or coated substrate ~~which has been~~ produced <u>from the</u> ~~using a~~ composition as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): <u>A method of preparing a dispersion or emulsion, comprising contacting the composition of claim 8 with one or more solvents</u> ~~The use of a composition as claimed in claim 8 for the preparation of dispersions and emulsions~~.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A dispersion or emulsion ~~which has been~~ prepared <u>from the</u> ~~using a~~ composition as claimed in claim 8.
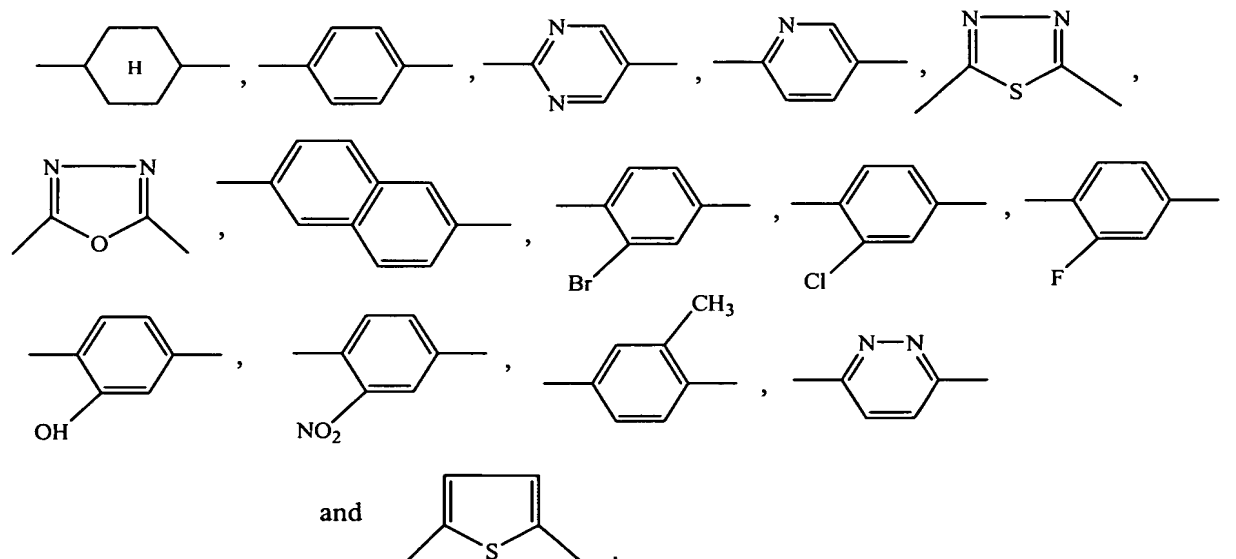
Claim 15 (Currently Amended): <u>A method of preparing a film, comprising</u> <u>polymerizing the</u> ~~The use of a~~ composition as claimed in claim 8 ~~for the production of films~~.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A film ~~which has been~~ produced <u>from the</u> ~~using a~~ composition as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): <u>A method of preparing a pigment, comprising</u> <u>polymerizing the</u> ~~The use of a~~ composition<u>,</u> as claimed in claim 8<u>,</u> <u>within the interspace of a</u> <u>mesh</u> ~~for the preparation of pigments~~.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A pigment ~~which has been~~ prepared <u>from the</u> ~~using a~~ composition as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 19 (New): A compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein T is selected from the group consisting of<u>:</u>

and

Claim 20 (New): The compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein, in the groups R^1 and R^2, m is, in each case, 0; Y^3 is a single chemical bond; and Y^4 corresponds to -O-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-O- or -(R)N-CO-O–; and wherein the variable Y^4 for group R^1 may be identical to, or different from, the variable Y^4 for group R^2.